

# Marine Culturology

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## 1. Marine Culturology

## Marine Culture / Ocean Culture

Fishermen's Culture  
(anthropology)

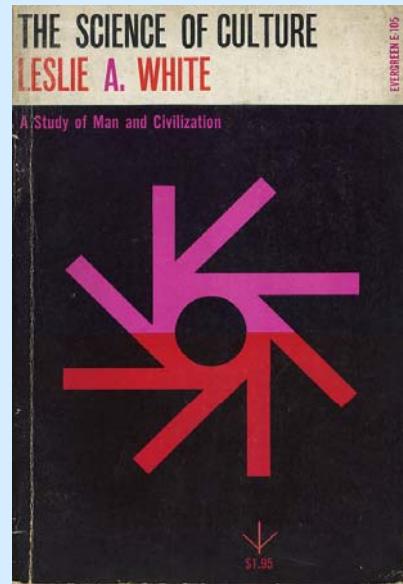
Navigators' Culture  
(history)



**Marine Culturology**  
holistic or transdisciplinary approach

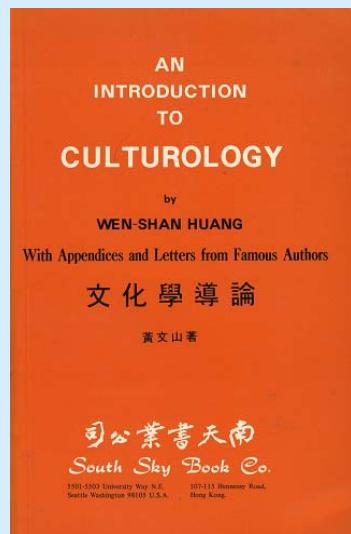
## Culturology

Culturology, a science of culture, brought out the relation between the human organism on the one hand, and the extra-somatic tradition that was culture on the other (L. White, 1949, *The Science of Culture: A Study of Man and Civilization*, Grove Press).



## 文化學 ≡ Kulturwissenschaft

Culturology, a science devoted to the study of cultural phenomena and cultural systems, should take its place among the sciences, because of the fact that culture is a phenomenon *sui generis*, having particular processes, mechanisms of change, structures, patterns, and laws of its own, and that culture is the most distinctive heritage and achievement of humanity (Wen-shan Huang, 1980, *An Introduction to Culturology*, South Sky Book).



## Marine Culturology

Study of human adaptation  
toward the marine environment

1. Marine Anthropology
2. Marine History
3. Underwater Archaeology
4. Study of Maritime Art

## 1. Marine Anthropology

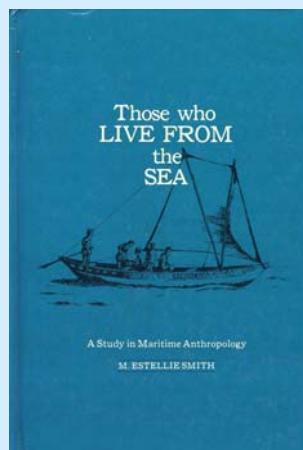
Marine Anthropology



Maritime Anthropology  
(nautical study [EU])

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Marine Anthropology  
Marine Ethnology  
(U.S.A.)



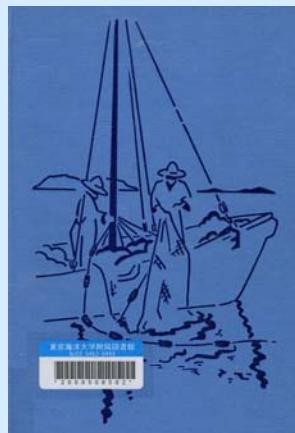
M.E.Smith,ed., 1977, *Those Who Live from the Sea: A Study in Maritime Anthropology*, West Publishing.

## Marine Anthropologists' Interests

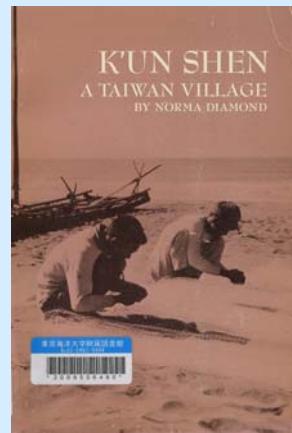
Traditional Fishing, Navigation, Maritime Community,  
Maritime Ethnic Group, etc. (↔ Modern Fisheries,  
Shipboard Life, and Prehistoric Marine Adaptations  
[J. M. Acheson, 1981, 'Anthropology of Fishing',  
*Annual Review of Anthropology* 10])

Social Anthropological (Folkloristic) Study  
of Maritime Communities

## Fishing Communities in East Asia

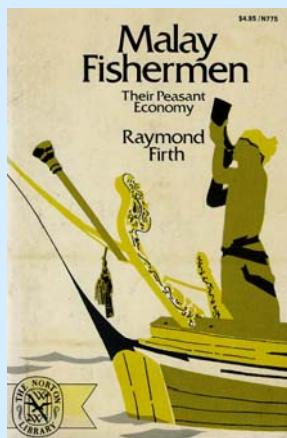


E. Norbeck, 1954, *Takashima: A Japanese Fishing Community*,  
University of Utah Press.

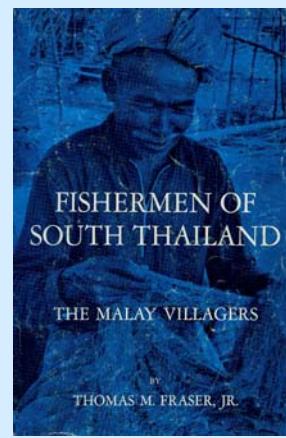


N. Diamond, 1969, *K'un Shen: A Taiwan Village*,  
Holt, Rinehart & Winston.

## Marine Ethnographies of S.E. Asia



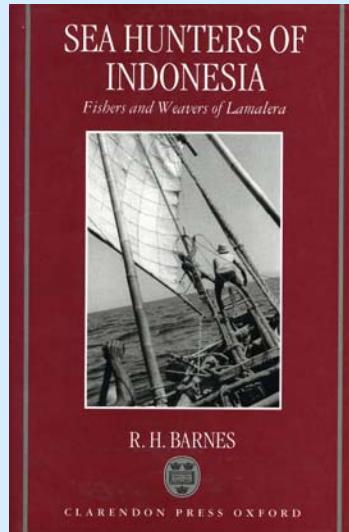
R. Firth, 1966, *Malay Fishermen: Their Peasant Economy*, The  
Norton Library.



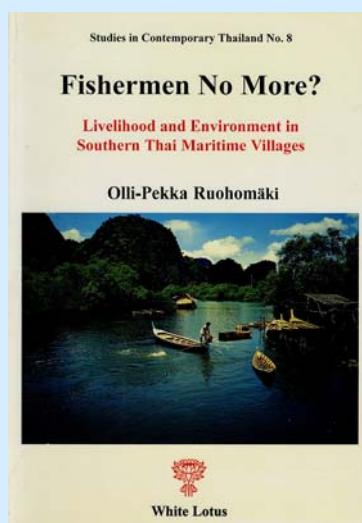
T. M. Fraser, 1966, *Fishermen of South Thailand: The Malay Villagers*, Holt, Rinehart & Winston.

T. M. Fraser, 1960, *Rusembilan*: A Malay Fishing Village in Southern Thailand, Cornell University Press.

1. Malay village (Malay Culture and Malay Language) in southern Thailand (National), with approx. 1,000 Islamic inhabitants.
2. Fishing (mackerel fishing with drive-in net by a fishing boat called *kolek* between April and September) and agriculture (rice & cash crops).
3. Traditional secular leaders (*orang baik*) control village politics ⇔ religious leaders (*imam* and others).



R. H. Barnes, 1996, *Sea Hunters of Indonesia: Fishers and Weavers of Lamalera*, Clarendon Press.



Olli-Pekka Ruohomäki, 1999, *Fishermen No More?: Livelihood and Environment in Southern Thai Maritime Villages*, White Lotus.

## Sea Powers/Fishing People or Maritime Populations/Maritime Ethnic Groups

**Sea Powers:** Phoenicia, Ancient Greece, Norman Countries, Portugal, the Netherlands, England, U.S.A.

**Fishing People or Maritime Populations:** Andaman Islanders or Eskimo (Forager), Melanesia or Polynesia (Horticulturalist), Japan (Peasant), Dutch (Peasant & Pastoralist)

**Maritime (Ethnic) Groups:** Sea Nomads in East Asia and Southeast Asia (only Fishing ⇒ Exceptional)

## Sea Nomads in Japan

They are referred to as *Ebune Min* and their dwelling boats are *Ebune*. Some have already adopted a sedentary existence on land.

B. Kim, 2003, *Ethnography of Ebune: Houseboat Fishermen in Contemporary Japan*, University of Tokyo Press.



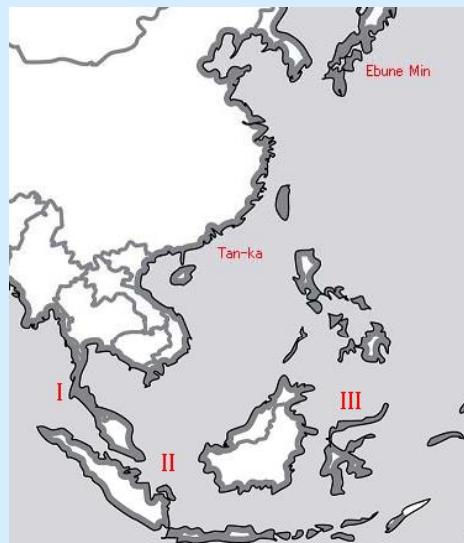
## Sea Nomads in southern China

They are referred to as *Tan-ka* (疍家) or simply *Tan* (疍) only, living mainly around the mouth of the Pearl river in southern China (including Hong Kong and Kowloon) on dwelling boats. Although land-based Chinese frequently say that *Tan-ka* do not belong to the Han (漢), there is no evidence demonstrating that they constitute an independent ethnic group.

## Sea Nomads in Southeast Asia

1. Fishing, only with wounding gears (no line, no trap, no net).
2. Foraging (sea or forest) for subsistence and exchange.
3. A fleet, nomadic band, consists of 10 to 40 dwelling boats.
4. Each dwelling boat has 4 to 10 family members without descent group.
5. Marriage is monogamous.
6. Normal domestic animals are dogs.

## Three Cultural-linguistic Groupings

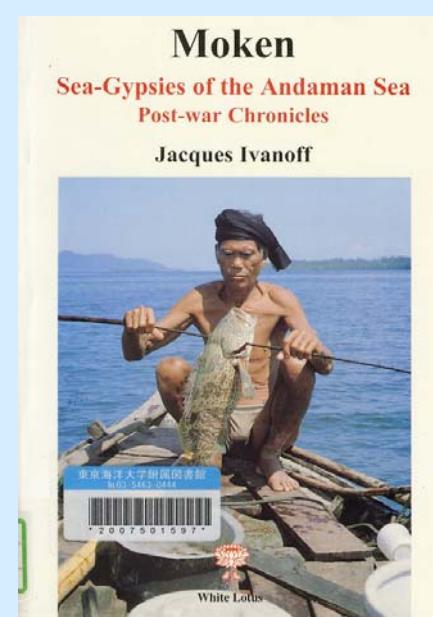


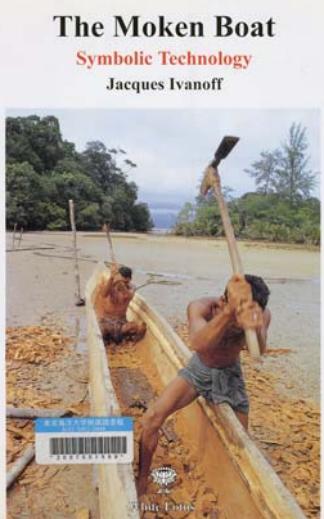
Sea Nomads in South-east Asia

- I: The Moken
- II: Orang Laut
- III: Sama-Bajau Group

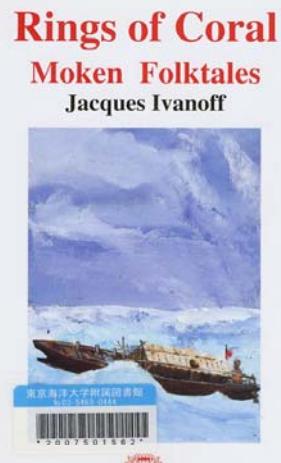
I: The **Moken** lives along the coast and among islands of the Mergui archipelago between extreme southern Burma and Thailand. The sub-group living in Thailand is sometimes called the ethnic group of Urak Lawoy.

Jacques Ivanoff, 1997, *Moken: Sea-Gypsies of the Andaman Sea, Post-War Chronicles*, White Lotus.





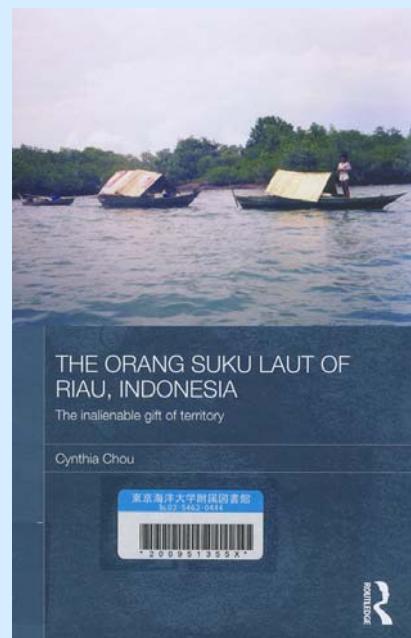
J. Ivanoff, 1999, *The Moken Boat: Symbolic Technology*, Whit Lotus.



J. Ivanoff, 2001, *Rings of Coral: Moken Folktales*, White Lotus.

II: **Orang Laut** live near river mouths, in marshy coastal areas, and on offshore islands all along the eastern coast of mainland Sumatra and the western coast of the Malay Peninsula, and in the Riau-Lingga archipelago.

C. Chou, 2010, *The Orang Suku Laut of Riau, Indonesia: The Inalienable of Gift of Territory*, Routledge)



## *'orang laut'* in the Malay Language

*orang* → man (the Malay language)

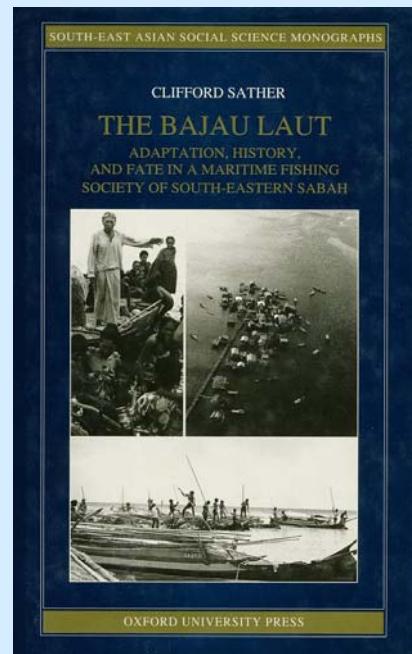
*laut* → sea (the Malay language)

cf. *orang hutan* (man of the forest)

Occasionally, they are referred to as *orang pesukuan*, *orang mantang*, *orang kuala*, *orang galang*, *orang sekah*, and so forth.

III: The **Sama-Bajau Group**, who lives scattered along coasts and among islands from the southern Philippines, to eastern Borneo and Sulawesi, and southeastward as far as Flores and the southern Moluccan islands.

C. Sather, 1997, *The Bajau Laut: Adaptation, History, and Fate in a Maritime Fishing Society of South-eastern Sabah*, Oxford University Press.



## Sama-Bajau Dwelling Boat



(M. Drüke, 2002, *Die Gabe der Seenomaden: Bei den Wassermenschen in Südostasien*, Hoffmann & Campe)

## 2. Marine History

Topics: Ship Construction, Sailors, Seaborne Trade, Piracy, Navy, etc.

Maritime History  $\leftrightarrow$  Marine History



Land Based

Historical Viewpoint



Sea Based

Fernand Braudel

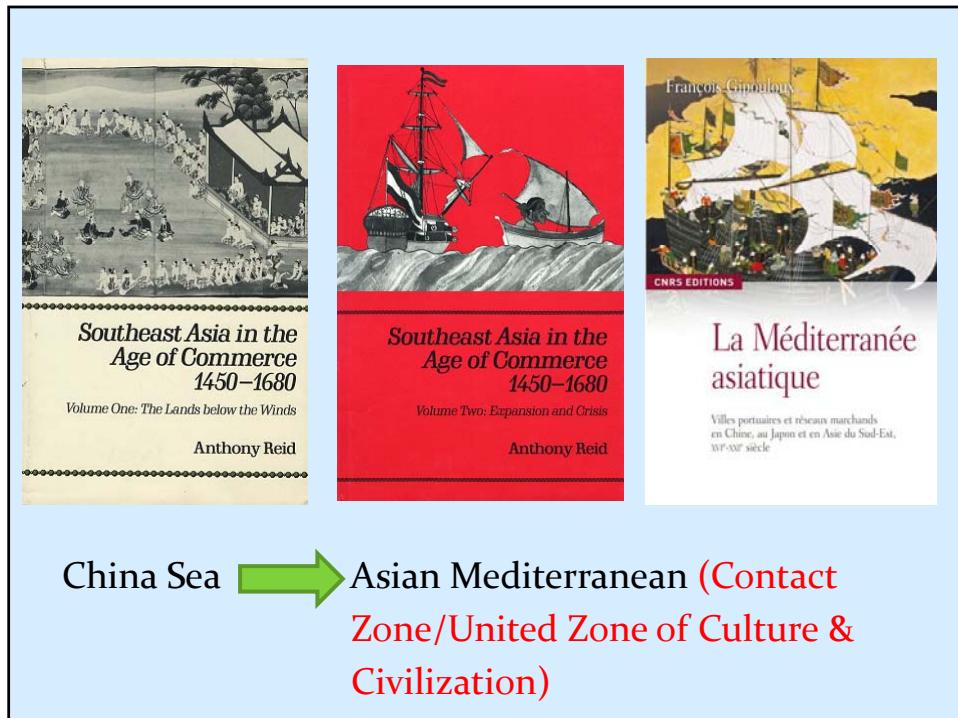
La Méditerranée  
et le monde méditerranéen  
à l'époque de Philippe II



2. Destins collectifs  
et mouvements d'ensemble



référances



### 3. Underwater Archaeology

Reconstructing Human Cultural Activities of the Past  
from Material Remains under the Ocean

Underwater Archaeology

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Nautical Archaeology/Maritime Archaeology

The Shinan Wreck (Korea, 14<sup>th</sup> Century Ship)

The Chinese ship (Japanese ship ?) was engaged in the shipping trade between Japan and the Yuan dynasty, and the wreck was found under the high sea on the western side of the Korean peninsula.

National Maritime Museum  
(Moppo, Korea), 2004,  
*The Conservation and Restoration Report of Shinan Ship*, National Maritime Museum.



## UNESCO

Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2009)



First International Agreement  
(In Asia, only Cambodia has ratified)

## 4. Study of Maritime Art

Music or Dancing among maritime populations, Marine Literature, Ocean Painting (including Sculpture or Woven Goods with maritime motif) , etc.

**Ryukyu Traditional Dancing:** In the 14th century, the Ryukyu kingdom in the Ryukyu islands established a tributary relationship with the Ming dynasty. When they welcomed Chinese diplomatic envoys, the Ryukyu traditional dancing, with marine character, was originally performed.

## Marine Literature

### Classics

- \* *Odyssey* (Greek Mythology)
- \* *Arabian Nights' Entertainments: Sindbad the Sailor* (Indian Ocean)

### Modern

- \* Herman Melville (America), *Moby Dick*, 1851.
- \* Ernest Hemingway (America), *The Old Man and the Sea*, 1952.
- \* Joseph Conrad (Poland-England), *Typhoon*, 1903.

## Joseph Conrad, *Typhoon* (1903)

The *Nan-Shan* was on her way from the southward to the treaty port of Fu-chau, with some cargo in her lower holds, and two hundred Chinese coolies returning to their village homes in the province of Fo-kien, after a few years of work in various tropical colonies. The morning was fine, the oily sea heaved without a sparkle, and there was a queer white misty patch in the sky like a halo of the sun. The fore-deck, packed with Chinamen, was full of somber clothing, yellow faces, and pigtails, sprinkled over with a good many naked shoulders, for there was no wind, and the heat was close.

### *tampan*

(ship cloth: ships carrying men or elephants)

Woven in south Sumatra, Indonesia from the 16th to the beginning of the 20th century



Ocean Paintings > Seapieces  
(Holland, 17<sup>th</sup> century)



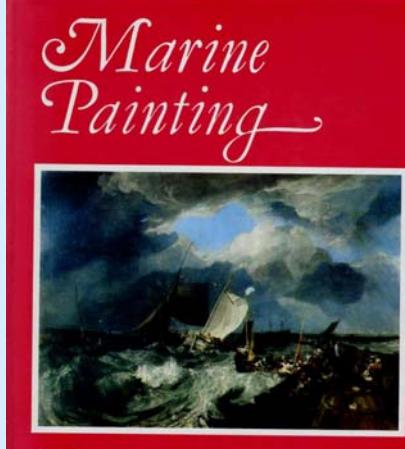
Jan van de Capelle , *The State Barge Saluted by the Home Fleet* (1650)



Théodore Géricault, *The Raft of Medusa* (1819)



Katsushika Hokusai, *The Great Wave off Kanagawa* (1831)



William Gaunt, 1975, *Marine Painting: An Historical Survey*, de Arbeiderspers.

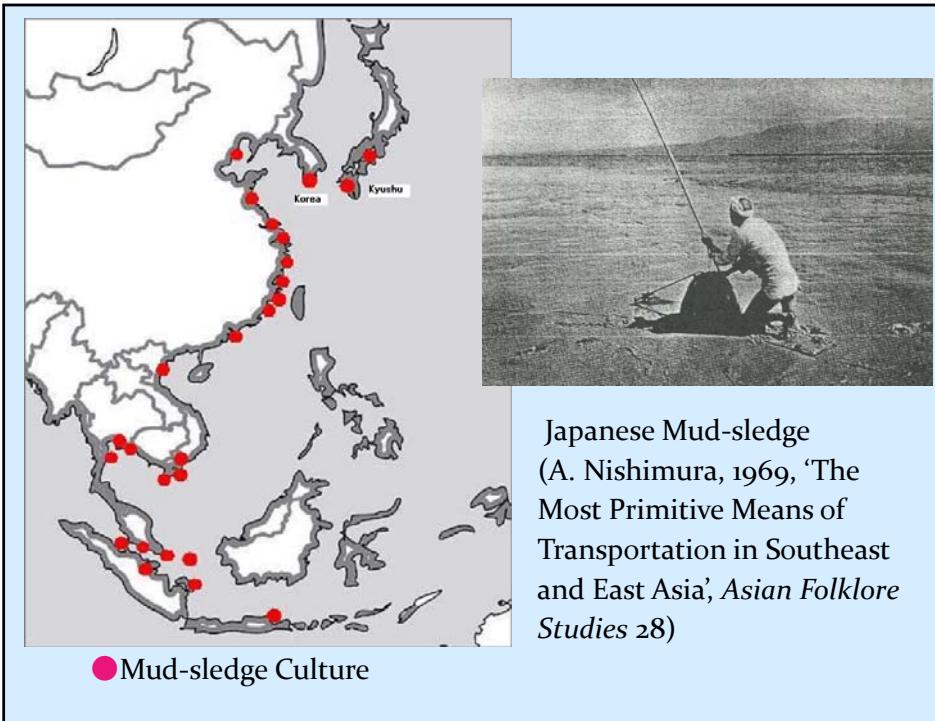


Exhibition at  
van Gogh Museum,  
Amsterdam.

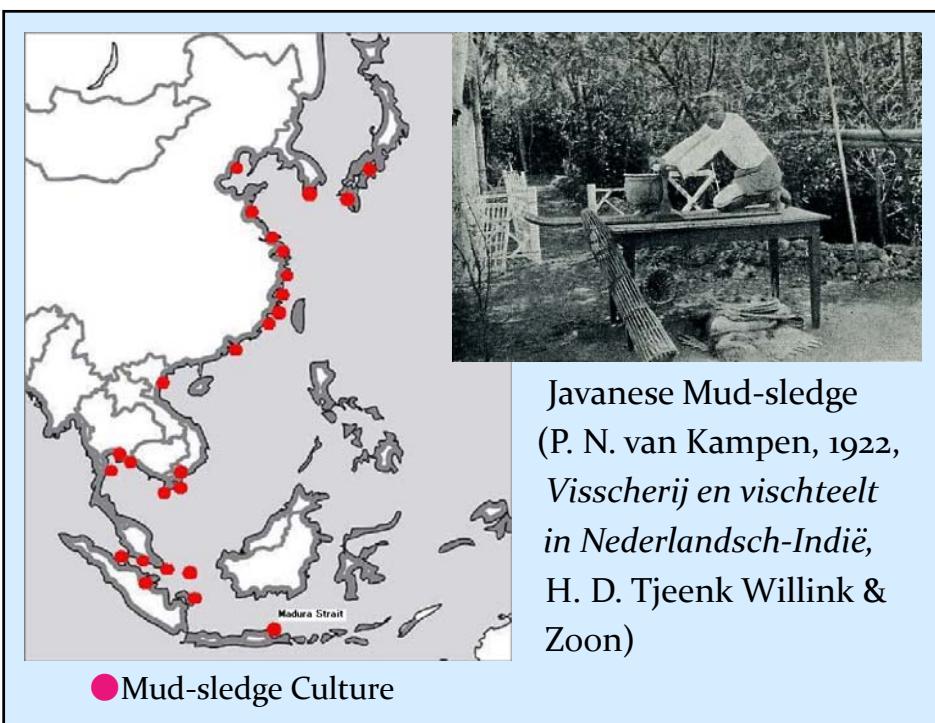
## 2. Mud-sledge Culture

What is a Mud-sledge ?





Japanese Mud-sledge  
(A. Nishimura, 1969, 'The  
Most Primitive Means of  
Transportation in Southeast  
and East Asia', *Asian Folklore  
Studies* 28)



Javanese Mud-sledge  
(P. N. van Kampen, 1922,  
*Visscherij en vischteelt  
in Nederlandsch-Indië*,  
H. D. Tjeenk Willink &  
Zoon)

## Three Types

1. Canoe Shaped Mud-sledge
2. Board Shaped Mud-sledge



Mud-sledge in Thailand

3. Flatboat Shaped Mud-sledge

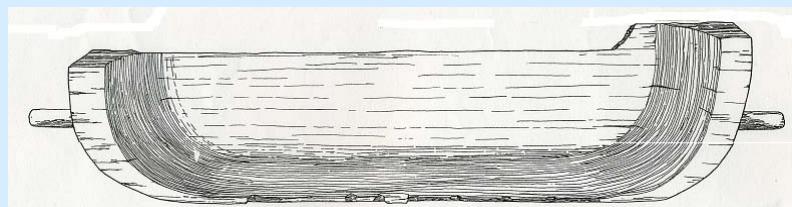
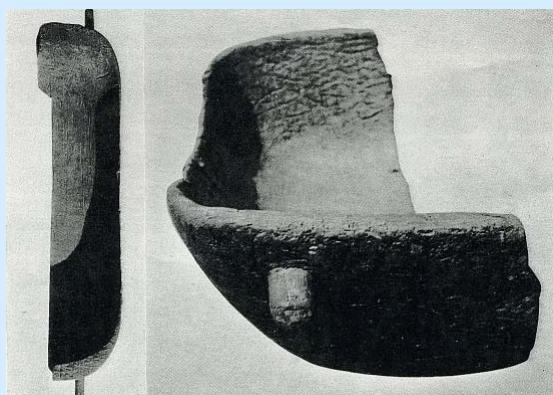
## Canoe Shaped Mud-sledge



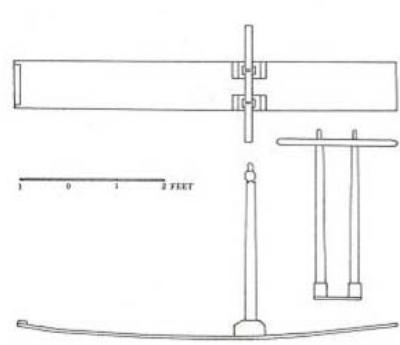
Lingga Islands (Sea Nomad or *Orang Laut*)

Archaeological  
Remains of  
Canoe Shaped  
Mud-sledge

(M. Goto, 1962,  
*Nirayama-mura*,  
*Yamaki Iseki*,  
*Nirayama-mura*)



## Board Shaped Mud-sledge, China



(H. Kani, 1969, 'Minamichugoku no Nai-pan matawa  
*Ni-mo-ch'uan ni Tsuite', *Kaiji Shi Kenkyu* 13)*

## Board Shaped Mud-sledge, Vietnam

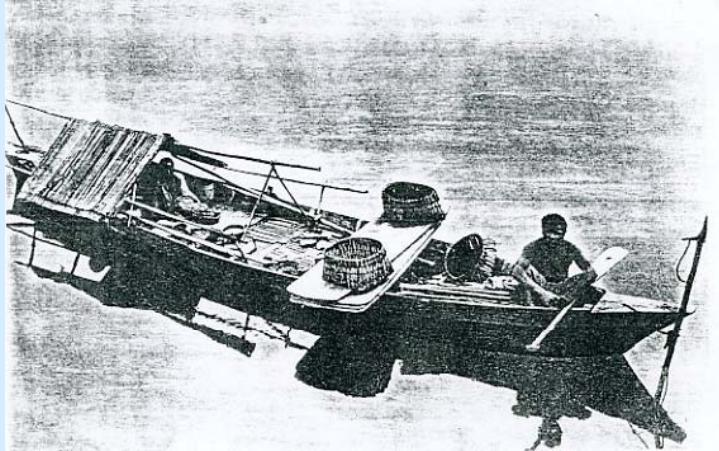


Mud-sledges around the Delta  
of the Mekong river

## Board Shaped Mud-sledge, Thailand



## Sea Nomads and Mud-sledges



(T. Adam, 1928, 'Die Orang Lahut', *Mitteilungen der Anthropologischen Gesellschaft in Wien* 58)

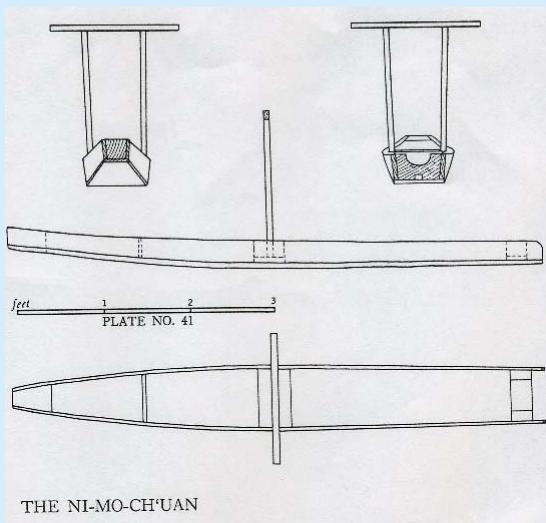
The mud-sledges as a plank about two metres and sixty centimetres wide, slightly upcurved at the front end. The collector would place himself on the sledge, kneeling on one leg and resting on both hands, and would move along by kicking with his free leg. This simple tool was named *tongka*, or in their language named *papēn*. Although this form of locomotion appeared to be extremely tiring, the boat people could keep at it for some hours, filling the baskets placed on the fore part of the plank with shellfish (J. G. Schot, 1884, 'Het stroomgebied der Kateman: Bijdrage tot de kennis van Oost-Sumatra', *Tijdschrift voor Indische Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde* 29).

## Mud-sledge in Bintan Island (Riau)

Bintan island, just in front of Singapore, belongs to the Riau-Lingga archipelago (Indonesia). The main fishing port is Tanjung Pinang.



## Flatboat Shaped Mud-sledge, China



泥摸船

Ni-Mo-Ch'uan

(G.R.G. Worcester,  
1971, *The Junk and Sampans of the Yangtze*, Naval Institute Press)

## *Sancai tuhui* (三才圖會)



## Mud-sledge at the Asahan Estuary



## Bangka Island



Bagan si Api-api

## Mud-sledge in Europe



(J. Boucard, 1984, *Les écluses à poissons dans l'île de Ré, Rupella*)

*Đất Mũi mù xa (Far-off Đất Mũi commune)*  
by Nguyễn Ngọc Tư (2008)

- • • mùa này, tôm cá về bãi, người mới đến thôi phá rừng mà đi đầy te, xiệp, giăng lưới ba mảng, **sạt sò** huyết, mò vẹp, bắt cua.
- • • this season, crabs and fish are coming back to seashores, but newcomers should not destroy the forest. They should use push nets or skimming nets, set fyke nets with three hoops, collect granular arks with **mud-sledges**, look for cyrena shell, or catch crabs.

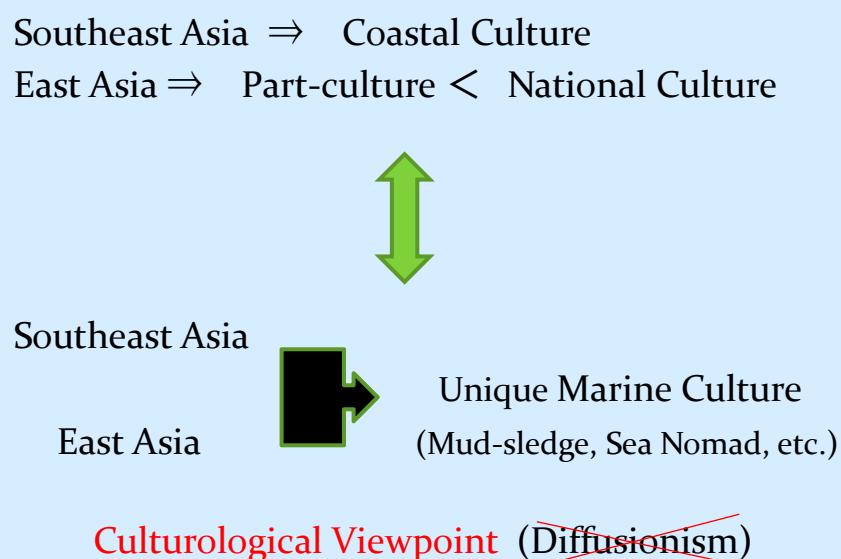
## Mud-sledge & Marine Environment

Mud-sledge ⇒ **Sustainable or Responsible Fishing**

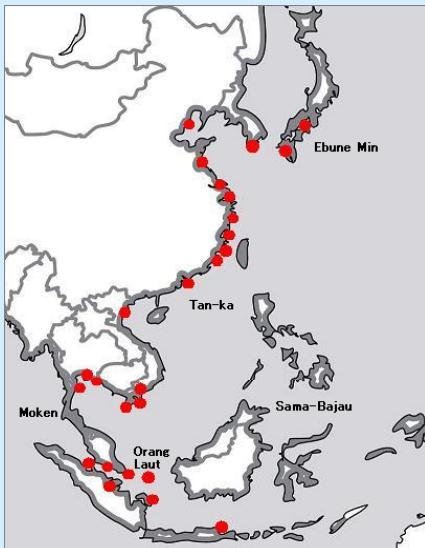
Disappearing Asian Mudflats or Mud-sledges

1. Contaminated Brackish Water
2. Poldering Projects
3. Sea Level Rise

### 3. Conclusion



## Toward a New Marine Culturological Perspective



● Mud-sledge Culture

Ocean

↓  
united/contact zone  
(culturology)  
~~barrier~~  
(economy/politics)

# Marine Culturology

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